

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Local Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Local Plan Objection  
**Date:** 17 June 2019 23:23:54

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I wish to object to the WBC Local Plan on the grounds that these plans are not sound and represent unrealistic growth predictions for South Warrington, driven by unjustified new housing ambition. Further detailed reasons include:

\* **NO JUSTIFICATION FOR USING AND DESTROYING GREENBELT FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE LOCAL PLAN.** Greenbelt is too precious to release for development unless for exceptional circumstances, which are not applicable to the Local Plan. Greenbelt is needed for our own health and well being and fields for sustainably growing our own local food. The main reason for releasing Greenbelt is the Council's own ambition for growth in our town, which has already experienced mass development in other areas in North Warrington. Greenbelt is not needed to provide homes for realistic population growth. Once Greenbelt is destroyed, it is gone forever.

Brownfield sites should always take preference, especially with the upcoming availability of Fiddlers Ferry and possibly the Warrington Hospital site. The many vacant commercial sites in Warrington too might be considered for housing development. Why keep building more retail parks such as JCN 9 with shop closures on the increase?

\* **GOVERNMENT DECLARED CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY.** Surely with increasing studies showing how the natural environment and diversity in nature are under serious threat from pollution, unsustainable farming methods and overdevelopment, we should be preserving our precious Greenbelt rather than concreting it over and putting more vehicles on the road.

\* **PLANNED HOUSING NUMBERS ARE FAR TOO HIGH.** The government suggested housing need is nearly twice that of need based on official population increase predictions, with the Council even **EXCEEDING** the Government figure. There is no justification for this or that such an increase in population/housing is in the interests of our town.

\* **A 20 YEAR PLAN IS TOO LONG TO BE REALISTIC.** Such plans are normally based on a 15 year span and this would not require the release of any Greenbelt with the upcoming availability of significant brownfield sites. With the predicted increase in population and uncertainty over our Brexit future, using precious fields for sustainable local food production is more necessary than ever.

\* **TRAFFIC CONGESTION.** Our roads and key bottle neck junctions such as the A49 into Stockton Heath and the Cat and Lion pub in South Warrington are already over capacity especially at rush hour periods. Such an increase in proposed housing and warehouse development would cause utter gridlock and traffic chaos. Traffic has not much choice but to be funnelled through the limited available canal crossings and through roads. There are no clear plans for new crossings or highways to service the massive increase in vehicles on our roads resulting from the proposed 'Garden Suburb' and accompanying industrial development.

\* **AIR POLLUTION.** The Council's Plan does not address concerns about the mounting scientific evidence of the catastrophic effect of air pollution on our health. The extra traffic from all the proposed extra housing and business will significantly worsen pollution around our main through roads in South Warrington. Pollution from the motorways surrounding us will also increase with increases in cars and HGV traffic through housing and proposed warehousing development. The green space, which until now has buffered us and absorbed much of this pollution will be gone and exacerbate the situation.

\* **GREEN CHARACTER OF SOUTH WARRINGTON.** South Warrington is known and loved as having beautiful, green countryside, open to all to enjoy fresher air, natural green spaces and nature. This Local Plan stands to destroy the character of this area. Individual and distinctive village communities will be merged into one massive, sprawling conurbation. Lost natural Greenbelt spaces and all the benefits these bring will not be replaced by manmade poky parks and playgrounds in this proposed supposed 'Garden Suburb'. A recent study by Kings College reported how the benefits of a walk in open, large, natural green spaces brings tangible health benefits to people, which lasts for 7 hours. The importance of this is not recognised or addressed in the Local Plan. The name 'Garden Suburb' does not hide the fact that this very plan will destroy our beloved and

preferred natural green spaces.

\* **PROPOSED PLANS ARE NOT DELIVERABLE.** The massive increase in proposed housing driving this plan is unrealistic compared to anything Warrington has created in the past. The Council cannot promise that the schools, health centres and other supporting amenities would be built along side housing - Chapelford is just such an example of this and how long all that has taken.

Where is the evidence that massive housing/industrial growth improves the quality of life for the residents of our town? It is not justified.

Current limitations in the highways infrastructure and geographical limitations of the area mean the Plan is undeliverable. Protect our Greenbelt for future generations, it is too precious to lose.

Thank you for your consideration of these objections.

Karol French

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